

March 16, 2012

Weekly Views

Spring is almost here and that means the 2012 Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAF) Golf Outing is quickly approaching. The tournament will be held on Friday, May 11, 2012 at the Eagle Creek Golf Club in Indianapolis, IN. For any questions or if you are interested in participating, please contact Jim Kimmel at jameskimmel@comcast.net or (219) 362-6150.

The Gary Parole District Office held a luncheon to help celebrate the recent promotion of Robert Ruwersma from Parole Agent to the Gary Parole District Supervisor. All current Gary District Staff were in attendance as well as retired Parole Agents from the district. Robert began his career with the IDOC in 1993 at Indiana State Prison as a Correctional Officer and rose through the ranks at the facility, until 2008 when he accepted a promotion to Parole Agent.

Reception Diagnostic Center staff were quick to help fellow IDOC staff after learning of the tornado disaster in Southern Indiana. RDC staff donated money and the Activity Committee held a Hot Dog Sale for four days, raising a total of \$1,100 to help those affected!

The aroma of cookies, cakes, and pies filled the halls of the Putnamville Correctional Facility during a Bake Sale held for Henryville tornado victims. Sponsored by the Employee Recognition Committee, proceeds in the amount of \$610 will be donated to displaced IDOC staff at the Henryville Correctional Facility.

Camp Summit Boot Camp staff participated in the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Food Drive, collecting more than 185 food items. The food was donated to the Good Shepherd Food Pantry, which serves about 400 families in the community each month. The food was delivered to the pantry by John Cosich, Community Service Director, and three students from the facility. After the delivery staff and students assisted the pantry with stocking the shelves.

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) Superintendent Mark Levenhagen made special recognition to WCC's PLUS Program Director Sandy Sharp on her 16th PLUS graduation since the conception of the unit in November 2005. The facility's most recent graduation celebrated the completion of 38 offenders from the program. The facility opened its graduation ceremony to friends and family of the graduates. The facility's Culinary Arts Vocational Education class provided the refreshments.

Miami Correctional Facility held a bake sale to benefit Officer Rodney Gahl, who was recently assaulted by an offender. The facility raised more than \$300. Facility staff donated bags of cookies and brownies to the cause.

Jim Kennedy was honored for 17 years of dedicated service to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) and PEN Products. PEN Manager Victor Manzo joined WVCF Superintendent Dick Brown in thanking Mr. Kennedy for his service as Plant Foreman in the Print Shop. Manzo said Kennedy's vast knowledge of the printing industry and calm, cheerful outlook and wisdom will be missed, not only by staff but also the offender workers he supervised.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile was at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, where staff donated 14 units of blood. Superintendent Linda Commons commented on staff's dedication to give to this community organization.

Participants of the Residential Reformative Re-Entry Program at Madison Correctional Facility donated over 100 non perishable items for the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Food Drive. Items were donated to the Salvation Army.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility loaded their first shipment of 200 renovated wheelchairs for "Wheels of the World" Thursday March 15. The wheelchairs are slated to be shipped to Romania where they will be individually fitted to each recipient.

New Castle Correctional Facility and Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) were visited by Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist religious leaders from the Buddhist Cultural Center in Bloomington, IN, including Center Director Arja Rinpoche.

The CIF PLUS unit held a KFC Fundraiser in which they raised well over \$1400. \$960 will be donated to Pendleton School System and \$500 will be donated to the CIF FIDO (Faith+Inmates+Dogs=Opportunity) Program.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) Community Services Department donated \$500 to the American Red Cross to assist with the tornado relief efforts in Southern Indiana. The funds were raised during a food sale organized by IREF residents. Residents purchased food items with available funds on their inmate account.

Superintendent Keith Butts is pleased to announce that Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) Maintenance Supervisor Bobby Latour has been promoted to the position of Powerhouse Supervisor 2 at PCF. Mr. Latour began his career at the facility in 1990. Congratulations Mr. Latour!

Wabash Valley presented appreciation quilts to editorial staff at both the Sullivan Daily Times and Terre Haute Tribune-Star in thanks for their ongoing coverage of proactive and breaking news events at WVCF, always in a fair and accurate manner. The PLUS unit made quilts featured the logos of both media outlets.

Marian University students and staff visited IREF as part of an Alternative Spring Break program which examines community outreach efforts and helps programs that benefit members of the community. The group visited all areas of the facility, while IREF staff and residents gave the group a broad overview of the IREF program and addressed their questions about resident life and re-entry.